



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

#2
The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
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NP10 8QQ



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Signed

[Handwritten signature]

Dated 29 January 2002

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Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference	14 MAR 2001	AT-G31115
2. Patent application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part)	NEWPORT	14MAR01 E613515-6 D00346 P01/7700 0.00-0106217.3

3. Full name, address and postcode of the each applicant (underline all surnames)	0106217.3	Pace Micro Technology Plc Victoria Road Saltaire Shipley BD18 3LF England
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Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

6905293001

4. Title of the invention	Television System
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5. Name of your agent (if you have one)	Bailey Walsh & Co.
"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)	5, York Place Leeds LS1 2SD
Patents ADP number (if you know it)	224001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number	Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (day / month / years)
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7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, the earlier application	Number of earlier application	Date of filing (day / month / years)
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8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer "Yes" if:	Yes
a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or	
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or	
c) any named applicant is a corporate body	
See note (d)	

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Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document.

Continuation sheets of this form

Description

7

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s)

1 + 1

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many of each item.

Priority Documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)

Request for substantive examination (*Patents Form 10/77*)

Any other documents
(Please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

Signature



Date

13.03.01

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

A Tomkinson
0113 2433824

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Television System

This invention relates to a television system including at least a display screen connected to a broadcast data receiver. The broadcast data receiver (BDR) receives and processes video, audio and/or auxiliary data received by a broadcaster from a remote location.

At least some of the video data processed by the BDR relates to programmes being shown on a particular channel. An electronic programme guide (EPG) display is typically provided using auxiliary data processed by the BDR. The EPG provides programme schedules/listings for a particular period of time for the available channels. EPGs are becoming increasingly useful in place of conventional paper based television listings as the number of available channels on digital television increases and thus the number of programmes available for viewing also increases.

When a viewer is watching a particular programme which forms part of a series of related programmes, the viewer may wish to know when the next episode of the programme is due to be shown. Due to the large number of programmes available for watching, even if the viewer uses the EPG to look for the showing of the next episode, it may take the viewer some time to identify the next episode.

In addition, programmes are often repeated a number of times and it is again time consuming for the viewer to look through the EPG or other TV listings to identify which of the next showings of their selected programme are repeats of previous episodes they have already watched and which programmes form the next episode of the programme they have just watched. Thus the viewer may end up watching a repeat of an earlier episode,

miss the next episode and/or the like. In some cases the television presenter may announce at the end of the programme when the next episode of the programme is to be shown but in many cases this does not occur. Furthermore, if the programme a viewer has just watched is a repeat of an earlier showing, the announcement at the end of the programme may be pre-recorded and therefore out of date.

It is therefore an aim of the present invention to provide a means of allowing a user to quickly and easily determine when the showing of the next episode of a programme is being shown.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a television system including a broadcast data receiver (BDR) for receiving broadcast digital data in the form of audio, video and/or auxiliary data from a remote broadcaster and processing said data for viewing on a display screen or listening via speakers connected to the BDR, said video data including programmes for watching by a viewer and wherein when a particular programme forms part of a series of programmes, at a pre-determined time point during or at the end of the programme, an indication is provided by the television system to inform the viewer of details relating to when the next episode of the said programme will be shown.

Preferably the indication of when the next episode is being shown is based on information provided in an electronic programme guide (EPG) display.

In one embodiment the indication is generated when the BDR detects the end of a programme, the BDR searches through EPG data and identifies the next episode of the programme. The BDR then generates the indication.

In an alternative embodiment information relating to showing of the next episode of the programme is sent with the data stream for the programme so that an indication can be generated at the end of the programme.

The EPG is typically generated from auxiliary data broadcast from a broadcaster.

Preferably the indication can include any or any combination of the date when the next episode is to be shown, the time at which the next episode is to be shown, the channel on which the next episode is to be shown, a description of the content of the next episode and/or the like.

If the next episode is to be repeated a number of times over a time period, the indication can include details of all showings of the next episode, the earliest showing of the next episode and/or the like.

Preferably the indication includes details of the showing of the next episode of the programme which does not overlap with any other bookmarked programmes previously selected and stored in the EPG.

In one embodiment the indication is in the form of a message displayed on the display screen.

Further preferably the message is provided on a semi-transparent background at an edge of the display screen to prevent obstruction of video data being shown on the display screen.

BDR for receiving broadcast digital data in the form of audio, video and/or auxiliary data from a remote broadcaster and processing said data for viewing on a display screen or listening via speakers connected to the BDR, said video data including programmes for watching by a viewer and wherein said method includes the steps of the BDR identifying the end point of the particular programme, the BDR searching its EPG data for the next episode or episodes of the particular programme and if an episode is identified the BDR then generating an indication to inform the viewer of details relating to when the next episode of the programme is to be shown.

The present invention has the advantage that the user can quickly and easily determine when the next episode of a particular programme is to be shown, without having to manually look through television schedules/listings to obtain the information.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the following figure:

Figure 1 is an example of a display screen according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to figure 1, there is illustrated a television system including a display screen 2 connected to a broadcast data receiver 4. The television system has an electronic programme guide (EPG) which displays television listings and/or schedules for a particular time period.

If a viewer is watching a programme which is part of a series of related programmes, a window 6 containing a message appears on the display screen at the end of the programme informing the viewer of the date and time of when the next episode of the

series is to be shown and the channel on which the programme is to be shown.

In addition, a brief description of what is being shown in the next episode of the programme can also be provided in the window.

The window/message is semi-transparent and appears at the edge of display screen 2 so that it does not obstruct the viewer's vision of the video data being shown on the display screen. However, the viewer can change the position of the window 6 if required.

The window typically appears on the display screen for a short period of time, such as 10 seconds.

The viewer can hide the reminder message if required or select an option from an options menu in the EPG to switch the reminder message off. Typically the user can also select the details provided in the reminder message using the options menu. For example, the user can choose whether to be provided with a brief description of what the next episode is about. This allows the user to decide whether to set a reminder to be informed nearer the time of the next episode that the programme is about to start or has started.

The user typically uses a button on the television remote control to hide the message, set a reminder in the EPG to be informed of the next showing of the episode and/or display details of the times, channels and dates of all the showings of the next programme episode.

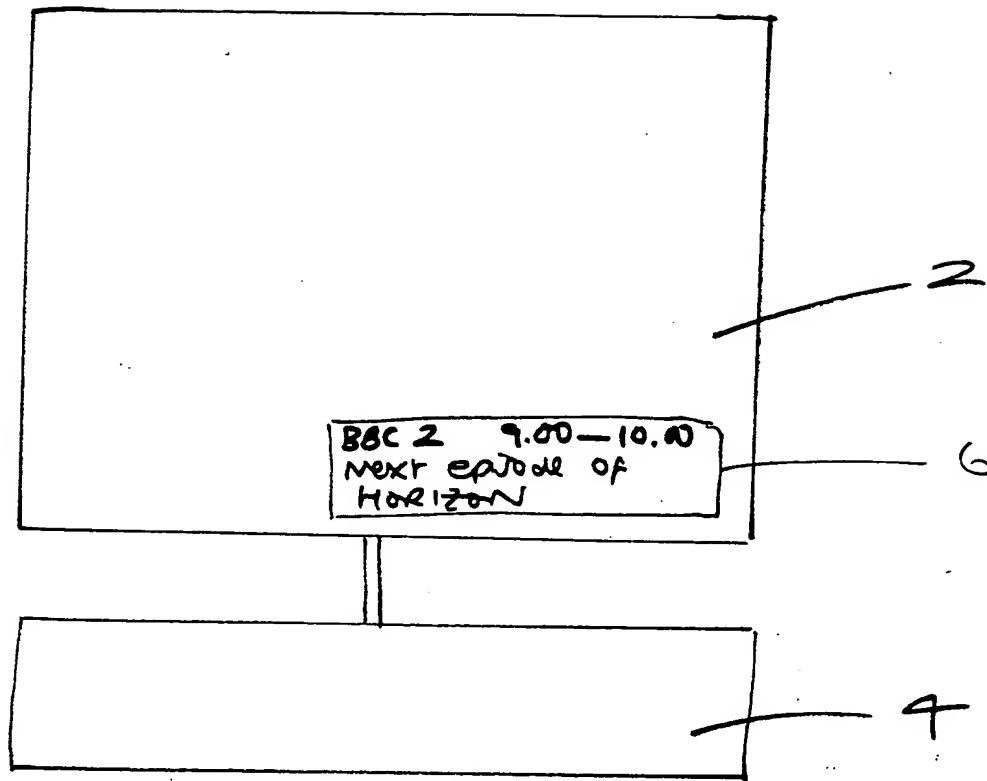
For example, a user is watching the programme "Horizon" on BBC Knowledge. At the end of the programme, a message is

displayed on the screen to inform the user of when the next episode of the Horizon programme is to be shown. The message indicates that the next episode is to be shown four times every day for the next week. The user then selects a reminder for one of the showings so that they are informed of when the selected showing is due to start.

As a programme is ending, data in the incoming data stream will initiate the BDR to search EPG data stored in memory of the BDR to identify when the next episode(s) is/are to be shown. The BDR then generates a message for display on the display screen to inform the user of the next episode(s).

Thus the present invention allows the user to easily plan their viewing for a particular time period without having to consult other television listings/schedules. The user can then use other features of the EPG or television system to set reminders, add the episode to a favourites schedule and/or the like.

Figure 1



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